

〔国際学研究フォーラム講演録 2〕

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グローバル化とその代償

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2017年10月19日（木）、米国アリゾナ大学（University of Arizona）の Julian Kunnie 教授を招いてフォーラム講演会を開催した。講演会のテーマは「グローバル化とその代償」であった。英語による主題と副題は The Cost of Globalization: Ecocide and Environmental Danger to the Earth and Her People である。副題が示すように現代社会が抱える問題の中でも緊要な課題である環境・生態系秩序の破壊、そしてそれらがもたらす代償についての講演会であった。

参集した学生と教員はその情熱的でパワフルな講演に耳を傾けていた。参加者の中には関西学院大学に交換留学生としてきている学生もかなりいた。環境問題がいかに普遍的で地球規模の大きな課題であることが多数な参加者の顔ぶれからも垣間見ることができた。講演の最後は次世代を生きる若い学生が環境破壊を少しでも防ぐために日常的に何ができるのか、またしなければならぬのかという具体的な提言で締められた。限られた時間ではあったが、質疑を含むディスカッションもでき有意義な講演会であった。

講演内容の要約は以下の通りである。

The Cost of Globalization : Ecocide and Environmental Dangers to the Earth and Her People

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Globalization has been championed by numerous scholars in a range of disciplines that span the social sciences, humanities, education, business, and the like, generally eulogized because it has sparked new trade, educational, and socio-economic links across the globe and because of rising stock indices and increases in monetary wealth in the trillions. However, the real story has not been told: the very lethal effects of globalization, particularly in the effects of escalating ecocide and rapid extinction of thousands of species unprecedented in human history; catastrophic levels of global warming and climate change that has seen island countries vanish and most portions of the world beset by permanent drought and torn asunder by hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and irruption of fires never witnessed in recent memory; and obscene disparities of economic value and monetary wealth between the upper 10% of the world and the remaining generally impoverished and marginalized 90%. For instance, a few years ago, 13 billionaires owned more monetary wealth

than half of the world's human beings, some 3.6 billion people ; today it's 8 billionaires, highlighting the exaggerated concentration of wealth in the hands of the super-wealthy elites that run the world in which we live.

Some concrete highlights of the lethal cost of globalization are very stark for everyone to see :

- ▶ Intensified ecological destruction so that between 50 and 200 species become extinct or permanently disappear every day according to the Center for Biological Diversity ;
- ▶ Humans have caused more species of life to disappear in recent history than over the previous 65 million years of the Earth and rates of extinction are between 1,000 and 10,000 times previous rates ;
- ▶ Increased hardships for women who are 50% of the world's human beings, but own just 1 percent of the world's monetary wealth and receive only 10 percent of the global income ;
- ▶ Indigenous peoples lands and cultures are continually violated and disregarded by governments and corporations ;
- ▶ Incarceration and expansion of the prison industrial complex has intensified where 25% of all prisoners globally are imprisoned in the U.S., and accelerated growth of the military industrial complex has occurred where the U.S. spends \$1.2 trillion on weapons and "national security" each year, more than the rest of the world put together, some \$2.2 million per minute, as noted by the American Friends Service Committee ;
- ▶ Commodity Price Drops have grown where agricultural products in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, are reduced in value for cheap export to the core countries of the North ;
- ▶ Conditionalities on Underdeveloped Countries by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund persist : Example : Vietnam, where the World Bank and other lending agencies weakened commodity cartels by financing new producers among underdeveloped countries. Vietnam replaced Colombia as the leading coffee producer and was then forced to accept 41 conditionalities of deregulation and privatization of state enterprises ;
- ▶ Genetically-Modified seeds on vulnerable agricultural producers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are increasingly imposed, resulting in hundreds of thousands of farmers becoming mired in debt and even forced to commit suicide since they were unable to pay their debts for costly GMO seeds, like in Thailand, India, and South Korea ;
- ▶ Food riots around the world were triggered since people were unable to pay for food staples like corn, wheat, and rice that saw dramatic increases in prices over the past 20 years ;
- ▶ Global warming and climate change has reached unsustainable levels that have seen glaciers melting all over the Earth, from Mount Everest to Kilimanjaro to the Alps to the Andes, resulting in very dangerous rising ocean levels that have erased island countries in the Pacific like Tuvalu and now threaten the existence of countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, and Vietnam.
- ▶ Extinction of sea creatures, the bleaching of coastlines like the Australian Barrier Reef, and the annihilation of the bee population that has seen one-third of all bee hives in the U.S. dying in the first half of the new millennium, have intensified each year. Polar bears, walruses, narwhal, lions, elephant, tigers, all face extinction, so that "quarter of all mammals, 1 of every 8 birds, one-third of all amphibians, conifers, and gymnosperms are facing extinction, and over a half of all reptiles, 52 percent of all insects, and 73 percent of all flowering plants are under serious

threat.”

- ▶ Deforestation for purposes of building dams and supplying wood to industrial companies is exploding, erasing forests like the Amazon, home to one-quarter of all species, where the equivalent of 13 football fields per minute are erased each day and the Amazon has become a net emitter of carbon gases, some 8 billion pounds each year, and sadly is no longer the “lungs of the Earth.”

The problem : Globalization has made humans at the top of society greedier for money and material things at the cost of the impoverished people on the periphery, and through its expanded industrialized production of goods, along with fossil-fuel burning, generates 36-38 billion tons of greenhouse gases each year, while the Earth can only recycle 14-16 billion tons of such gases.

The solution : The positive abolition of capitalism and globalized industrialism and the return to the traditional ancestral ways of living in respect with and in harmony with the culture and ways of the Earth, our Mother and Source of Life. We must abandon capitalism now. . . . or there will be no tomorrow. It may sound simplistic and romantic, but it's real : We must “come down to Earth” and realize that the Earth will not allow humans to destroy all of her other children. This is why the “Great Cleansing” is occurring globally. We are sowing the seeds of our own human destruction because of our obsession with accumulating materialistic things under globalized capitalism. *We must live sustainably so that the next seven generations can live and our grandchildren's grandchildren can. . . . LIVE. We must LIVE SIMPLY, SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE! We Belong to the Earth ; the Earth Does Not Belong to Us! You are, We are, the solution to the problem of ecocide and wars against the Earth. We must act now and change direction and our paths . . . to one of holistic, sustainable, and peaceful living with all our relatives on the Earth. . . .*